

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08178 031612Z
ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /041 W
-----011390 040135Z /64
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9271

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, NI
SUBJECT: BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS PROGRESS REPORT:

1. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY A.O. OLUWUNMI, THE NIGERIAN OFFICIAL TASKED WITH HAVING THE PROPOSED OPIC PROCEDURES APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT, APOLOGIZED TODAY FOR BUREAUCRATIC SLOWNESS IN OBTAINING FINAL FMG APPROVAL. HE STATED THAT THE PROBLEM LAY WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE, THE INTERMINISTERIAL GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDY AND CLEARANCE OF ALL IMPORTANT ECONOMIC TOPICS. OLUWUNMI EXPLAINED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS LITERALLY SWAMPED WITH WORK NOW THAT THE FMG WAS "THROWING EVERYTHING CONCERNING MONEY" AT THE COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF THE BUDGET CRUNCH. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS AND HOPEFULLY PASS ON THE OPIC PAPER WHICH OLUWUNMI HAD WRITTEN URGING APPROVAL.

2. OLUWUNMI RE-EMPHASIZED THAT THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS HAD LEFT WASHINGTON ON APRIL 28 FULLY SUPPORTING THE OPIC RECOMMENDATIONS. THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND OTHER RELEVANT FMG ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO FAVOR THE PROPOSAL AND OLUWUNMI BELIEVES IT ONLY "A MATTER OF TIME" BEFORE FORMAL
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FEDERAL APPROVAL IS GRANTED. OLUWUNMI FURTHER CONFIDED THAT THERE WAS VERY STRONG PRESSURE FROM HIGHER FMG LEVELS TO HAVE THE NEW OPIC PROCEDURE ACCEPTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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